

THE FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Do- It- Yourself

The Story of Camille

Key Stage 1/ Lower Key Stage 2

This is one of our range of DIY resources, which aim to provide you with what you need to teach your pupils in the galleries. We hope that the following teaching ideas include some which are suitable for your needs. As we do not know your pupils, or the specific aims of your visit, these ideas may need adapting, but we hope they will act as a springboard. Each idea includes signpost sequences all of which point to pupil interaction with the exhibits, *example prompt questions written in italics*, and information. Many are followed by suggested extension ideas that can take place in the galleries. 'Into Action' sheets, which are linked to these teaching ideas, are available for pupils to use in the galleries.

When you are talking in front of the painting, or any work of art in the Museum, be very careful not to touch it yourself. Also, as the children sit down in front of the painting make sure that they can all see the painting – the gallery lighting can make this difficult if the children sit too close. Often it is better to sit the children a little further back to give them a good view.

Aims of 'The Story of Camille' session

- To introduce young children to impressionist artists and paintings.
- To encourage young children to engage actively with real paintings.
- To stimulate a desire for children to make paintings themselves.

Galleries used in this session:

Gallery 5, 4 & Founders Entrance

You will need to bring:

- One clipboard for each pupil
- Paper and pencil for each pupil
- Photocopied 'Into Action' sheets
- Possible Props to bring with you to help in the telling of this story:
 - Scrapbook containing pictures of Paris
 - Top Hat
 - Small bag/purse containing an old key

The Story of Camille

Take children to Gallery 5, the Impressionists. Sit them down comfortably on the floor in front of *House of Piette at Montfoucault, 1830 - 1903* by Camille Pissarro, 1830 - 1903.



No: PD.10-1966

an impression or an idea of a place.

Today we are going to be hearing a story told through pictures. You can't see the whole story in the pictures like you can in a cartoon though, you have to use your imagination. From the pictures you get an impression of what it would be like to be in the story. In fact, that is the word that we use to describe the kind of paintings in this room: impressionist. They give you

The story starts in this place here. *What can you see?* Snowy landscape. *Snow can be hard to paint, can't it?* *Can you see how the artist has layered up the paint into drifts, just like happens with real snow?* *What colour is the picture? Is it just one colour?* *Look at how the colours are merged to create a soft, snowy effect.*

How about the house in the background? Is there anyone in it? Have you noticed the tracks in the snow in front of it? In fact, a whole family live in it - a girl called Camille, her six brothers and sisters and their parents.

Camille was 16 years old and the eldest child in this large family. Her youngest brother was only 3 months old so although the house looks quiet, almost sleepy in the snow, it was usually full of noise. Although she was the oldest she still liked to play Hide and Seek and Sardines, but also because she was the oldest she sometimes liked to be by herself when the others were getting too silly. One of the noisiest games the younger ones played was called 'Trains'. Trains were new and exciting and none of the family, even Camille's parents, had ever been on one although you could just see the smoke and hear the noise of the one which passed by on the new railway line nearby if you looked out of the attic window. Her

brothers and sisters all held onto each other and just chugged about making engine noises and tooting, getting faster and faster till someone fell over!

That was when she often played her favourite game. On the top bookshelf in her bedroom was a scrapbook. She had to stand on a chair to get it down. Camille kept it up high as she didn't want her brothers and sisters to look at it. It was her special scrapbook in which she collected all the pictures of Paris from newspapers and magazines she could find. Pictures of horse-drawn cabs (old fashioned taxis), boats sailing along the Seine decorated with lines of bright flags, the markets full of exotic fruit and pictures of Parisian people. There was one picture which always made her laugh. It showed a man wearing an enormously tall hat which looked a bit like a black chimney. Surely nobody really wore hats like that.

The game Camille played was called 'Let's Go to Paris'. All she did was close her eyes after she'd looked at the scrapbook and imagine being there. She could hear the horses' hooves clattering along the streets and hear the cries of the market stall holders. She could smell expensive perfume and ride down the Seine looking at all the grand buildings. However, sooner or later something would bring her back to real life. Like having to help out with the jobs on her father's farm.

Move the children to sit in front of *Return from the fields, 1886* by Pierre Auguste Renoir, 1841 - 1919.



No: PD.29-1964

One of her main jobs was to go out to the fields and bring the cows in to be milked. It was the same each day and every day and although Camille loved her family very much she thought to herself "There must be more to life than this - If only I could really go to Paris instead of just imagining it". As she walked the cow up to the dairy, she listened to the sounds of the trains in the

distance. She was desperate to be one of the people on a real train – not the pretend one her brothers and sisters had invented. Little did she know that her dream was about to come true ...

Winter gradually left the farm house and turned into a beautiful spring. Camille continued to read her scrapbook and imagine life in Paris. One morning, Camille's father called her downstairs. Her Uncle Alphonse, the famous art dealer was coming to visit, and she was to go with her father on the pony and trap to collect him from the station! Camille couldn't believe her eyes when he got off the train and she saw what was on his head- it was true; people really did wear them!

Move the children to sit in front of *Springtime, 1886* by Claude Monet, 1840 – 1926.



Uncle Alphonse had come to stay for a few days, and spent some time talking with his niece in the orchard and told her about some of his adventures. Here they are sitting in the orchard

What kind of day do you think it is? What time is it? What sounds and smells would there be? Can you imagine it? How do

No: PD.2-1953

you think Camille felt as she sat there under the trees with her incredible Uncle Alphonse?

As he talked he watched Camille's face light up and her eyes grow wider as he told her about his travels. "Camille" he said "Would you like to come on an adventure with me to Paris?"

Well you can imagine what Camille said ...

The next day, Camille borrowed a hat from her mother and caught the train with Uncle Alphonse and together they made their way down to the bustling street in Place Clichy where Camille could not get over the sight of men in top hats!

(ask children to find *La Place Clichy, 1880* by Pierre Renoir, 1841 - 1919)



No: PD.44-1986

streets. Standing there on the side of the road she felt a great surge of excitement as her adventure began.

Can you see Camille in this picture?

Here she is in her best hat and coat. How different it was in Paris than her quiet life in the country! How different from the calm of the family farm. *Instead of trees and rolling fields what can she see now?* She was amazed at the noise of this big city - *what noises can she hear standing here?* (horse and carriage/ people talking/ laughing/ shouting to each other) Even the smells were different from home- the coffee and pastries from the café, the dust and the dirt in the busy

Uncle Alphonse took Camille to a very posh hotel where she sat on some soft velvety chairs, marvelled at the furniture, and where they ate lunch. And then Uncle Alphonse said to Camille: "I have organised a treat for us now - I want to take you to see something you have never seen before, the ballet." And with that they collected their coats and set off for the theatre.

(Move the children through to the Founders Entrance balcony in a safe area away from the top of stairs)

The ballet was taking place in the largest and grandest theatre in Paris. Camille was amazed by the size of just the entrance to the theatre.

"Now Camille" said Uncle Alphonse "We have got plenty of time before the ballet starts. Wait for me here and I will go and buy a programme." (explain what a programme is if the children don't know). Camille sat down on a bench and looked around. This is what she saw - (point around the Founders Entrance).

What can you see? Statues, columns, dome, decoration – (encourage children to look very carefully at these galleries. Get them to look up) *There are statues of people – can you find any animals?*

But as well as the amazing building in which she was sitting, Camille also saw, coming up the staircase, other people who were going to the ballet. The men looked very smart in their top hats (like you saw in the other painting) and long dark coats. The women were dressed in their finest hats, beautiful long dresses and were holding fashionable umbrellas and small purses made of beads. It was a fantastic sight!

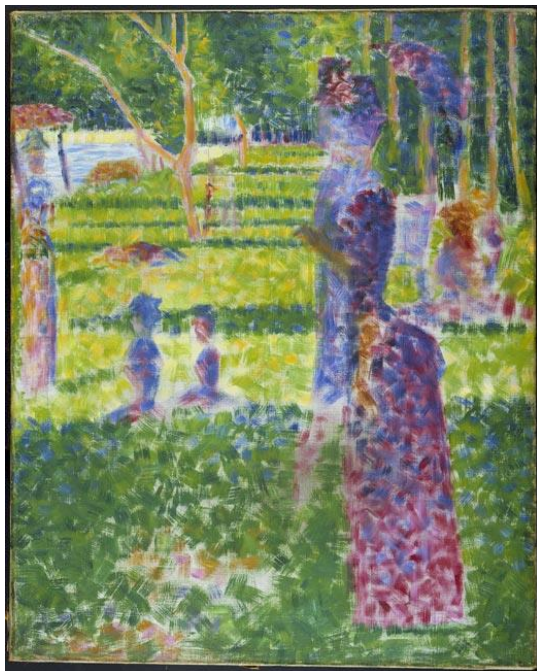
Suddenly, one particular well-dressed lady caught Camille's eye. She was wearing a long pink and blue dress, a matching hat and holding in her arms something unexpected. Not an umbrella or a theatre programme but a dog! Perhaps it was the dog which made her catch Camille's eye or perhaps it was the way she walked with such elegance and grace. It might have just been the fact that this lady was walking in the opposite direction to all the other people. As everyone came into the theatre, the lady was walking out.

As Camille watched her, she saw that she was carrying a purse a little like this one. (show purse – prop needed) The dog wriggled in her arms, excited at the thought of going outside and as the lady held onto him more tightly, her purse fell to the floor. She didn't seem to notice and kept walking through the oncoming crowds. Camille saw what had happened and without thinking, darted forward to pick up the purse before it was trampled. She looked up to return it to the owner and, through the crowd of people, she could just see the lady's hat in the distance. She headed towards the hat and soon found herself out on the street, amongst a bigger crowd still. Camille weaved her way through the crowded pavement to try and get to the lady with the dog. Camille could no longer see the hat. Her heart was thumping and as she looked around she also realised that she had no idea where she was. What was she to do next? What would Uncle Alphonse be thinking? She was lost and frightened.

Ahead of her were some large metal gates and railings, a little like the ones outside this museum. It was the entrance to the park. Camille wanted to escape the busy city pavements which were making her even more frightened. She ran into the park and sat down on the grass, still holding the lady's purse. What if somebody thought she had stolen it? She put her head in her hands and began to cry.

Through her tears she looked at the people in the park. The ladies had their parasols up to shade their faces from the sun and Camille noticed a lake where people could take out boats and feed the ducks. Suddenly she saw someone she recognised - there she was, under her parasol, in her pink and blue dress with her dog - the lady from the theatre. *There's a painting of her in the gallery - can you find it?* (move the children back into Gallery 5)

(children should look for *Study for La Grande Jatte, 1884* by Georges Seurat, 1859 - 1891)



Explore the painting - What else is in the painting? - the boats, the trees, the dog etc. How is it painted?

So Camille ran up to the woman who was very surprised to see this young girl holding her bag. She was very grateful to Camille - and introduced herself as Madame de Bonfleur - the owner of the theatre. She was just taking her dog out before the matinee (afternoon) performance.

Madame de Bonfleur and Camille returned to the theatre - and meet up with Uncle Alphonse in the entrance hall - he was very worried because he thought he had lost Camille. The Lady takes them to their seats. The show was amazing - Camille had never seen anything like it before - so many people sitting together watching the same thing, the music played by a real orchestra and the dazzling dancers on stage.

After the show the lady returns to their seats and asks them to come and have tea with her backstage as a thank you for returning her purse.

(Move children to see the cabinet containing the sculptures of dancers by Degas)



No: M.6 - 1990

Camille had a chance to meet some of the dancers who were cooling down after their performances and practising their stretches for the evening, when they would have to do the whole thing again. Camille was amazed at the positions they were able to make with their bodies and she loved hearing all about life in the theatre. When it was time to go one of the ballet dancers handed her something – it was a ribbon that had come off her shoe when she was dancing. Camille thanked the dancer, took the ribbon home and put it into her scrapbook so that she could remember her wonderful trip to Paris forever.

Resources for 'The Story of Camille'

The following "Into Action" sheets are available from the Education Department and can be found here:

<http://www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/dept/education/schoolscolleges/selfled/camille.html>

- Does it belong in the country?
- An impression of summer
- People from Paris!
- 'Let's go to...'

The following "Fact Sheets" are available from the Education Department, and can be found here:

<http://www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/dept/education/learningresources/learningresources.l.html>

- Camille Pissarro: Petite House
- Claude Monet: Springtime
- Georges Seurat: Study For La Grande Jatte

Further information about many exhibits is available on our website Pharos – www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/pharos